

For release: June 14

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



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MUSEUM OPENS
JUBILEE YEAR

Nearly 1200 members and guests of The Cleveland Museum of Art last night (Monday) inaugurated the Museum's year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary in a formal banquet at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel.

In the banquet hall the diners heard Sir Frank Francis, Director of The British Museum, say that "a museum, as the recorder and communicator not of its own, but of the world's experiences and achievements, itself plays the role of a creative artist in the community. If that is true anywhere, it is true of this splendid institution whose fiftieth birthday we are celebrating at this time. Its creative achievements have long been the admiration and envy of other museums in all parts of the world. Founded in June 1916, it set itself from the start to be a gallery of great works of art. With great courage, it has on occasion refused generous gifts because they interfered with its determination to present a unified collection eschewing as far as possible all kinds of isolationism. In maintaining its policies, and following its ideals, it has been supported by many benefactions which can only be described as truly great. I think particularly of such names as Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wade, Mr. Liberty Holden, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph T. King, Mr and Mrs. Worcester R. Warner, Mrs. Henry A. Everett, Grace Rainey Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Marlatt, John L. Severance, Elisabeth Severance Prentiss, Mr. Leonard C. Hanna Jr., and Martha Holden Jennings."

(continued)

The dinner marked the culmination of more than three years' work by museum staff members and the institution's volunteer group, the Junior Council. Today (Tuesday) members are invited to the opening of the first of several major exhibitions organized to celebrate the anniversary. This is FIFTY YEARS OF MODERN ART, a chronological review of the key works produced by the key artists of the years 1916 through 1966.

To emphasize today's opening, the guests at last night's banquet were given a preview of the exhibition. Each of the five decades encompassed in the show was represented by a sculpture.

A monumental mobile, SNOW FLURRY, by Alexander Calder hung over the dining room from above. Amid the seated diners stood sculptures by David Smith, Aristide Maillol, Georg Kolbe and Jacques Lipchitz.

In addition to Sir Frank Francis, the main speaker, Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, president of the board of trustees and Sherman E. Lee, the museum's director, addressed the guests. John S. Wilbur, a member of the museum's board of trustees, was master of ceremonies.

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